4: Hoffman E-4 (no date) 1967 MW11 Shluh MW11 (ca. 1900)

hold office for life, except in case of grave error or commission. The two presidents, the *imgharin*, are chosen for life by the members of the superior council, and represent the *ksar* before outsiders (La Chapelle, 1929, p. 32).

The members of the inferior or peoples' council are chosen by the superior council from among the most violent and boisterous toughs in each division, for they are responsible for carrying out the decisions of the superior council and for policing the *ksar*, and the theory is that this work will be facilitated by the fear which they inspire. The president of the inferior council, the *amghar n l'amt*, is similarly selected by the members of the superior body, and acts as a police-chief for the *ksar* (La Chapelle, 1929, p. 33).

Such a bicameral organization apparently is common throughout the Lektawa region, with the common variation that the superior council has only one president, or *amghar*. To the east, in the Tiallalin region of the Oued Ziz, this political structure apparently becomes simplified further, for Laoust reports the presence of only one council. In theory this is composed of the notables or respondants (*amur*, *bab n umur*, *amasay* in Berber; *mezrag*, *reffad*, or *hamil* in Arabic) of each division, and is headed by a president or chief (*amghar n taqbilt*) elected annually by the noble families of the *ksar*. In practice, however, the same individual may become chief year after year, and he may even select the respondants from each division. The chief also appoints an assistant (*amghar ellemezrae*) each year from among the divisions, who acts as a controller or police-chief over the respondants and is therefore morphologically equivalent to the *amghar n l'amt* in Nesrat (La Chapelle, 1929, p. 32; Laoust, 1934, pp. 143-144).

Among all Berber groups the less important councils customarily hold their meetings in the local mosque. District and tribal councils commonly meet at district or tribal market places.

b. *Function*

Among the traditional Berbers the function of each representative council is to deal with those matters which interest it as a whole and concern only its members. Within this sphere it exercises what are commonly referred to in Western political thought as executive,